THE PERRYSBURG JOURNAL.

BY S. CLARK.] *"Agriculture, Commerce, Manufactures."* [$1.50 IN ADVANCE.

VOL. 2. PERRYSBURG, WOOD COUNTY, OHIO, SATURDAY, SEPETEMBER 30, 1854. NO. 27.

A Live Yankee—Raising the Steam Frigate Missouri at Gibraltar.

The United States steam frigate Missouri was burned and sunk in Gibraltar harbor on the 23d of August, 1842. She careened as she went down, and laying upon her beam ends, presented one of her shafts upward, very near the surface of the water. This mass of iron was nineteen inches in diameter, and of course offered a dangerous obstruction to the bay. The existence, moreover, of so vast a body as the sunken frigate at the bottom of a harbor in which the tides ebbed and flowed, and strong currents continually shifted the sand, was not to be tolerated in an English port, so important to the commercial and war marine of Britain as was Gibraltar.—The British government accordingly presented the case to ours at Washington, and requested us to remove the obstruction. We agreed to do so.

The British Secretary, conceiving the job to be a very bad one, kindly recommended to our government, as very suitable engineers for the work, Messrs. Lovi and Marshall.—These gentlemen had acquired great reputation in England by raising the line-of-battle ship, the Royal George, which sunk so suddenly at Spithead, and carried down with her hundreds of men and women. Our navy department employed these engineers to raise the Missouri. They went to Gibraltar, and worked and strained, faithfully, for three long years, at the noble hulk under water, and then reported to the department at Washington that the Missouri could not be raised by human means. They abandoned the enterprise, and returned to England.

The necessities of the case induced Mr. Webster to take hold of the matter, and find a man who would free Gibraltar harbor of that obstruction. He lighted on John E. Cowen, of Boston. This gentleman's documentary title to the character of a submarine engineer was altogether in the certificate of his birth as a Yankee, to be found in his father's family Bible. He had no parchments, nor sheep-skins, ass-skin, nor other skin diplomas, to show to Mr. Webster, but when asked by the great Secretary if he could remove the wreck of the frigate as she lay there in forty-one feet of water, he said that he could. When asked if he would enter into $50,000 bonds for the performance of a contract to raise her, he said he would.—When asked if he would bind himself to have every stick of the frigate out of the way within three years, he said he would bind himself to accomplish it within six months. Webster had found his man. A contract was immediately made.

Mr. Cowen was already equipped with his invaluable submarine armor. The removing apparatus remained for him to construct.—On reflecting, he decided to blow the frigate to pieces, and lift and remove the fragments in detail.

The case, on full inquiry and investigation, proved to be one of peculiar difficulty. The sand had accumulated upon the wreck. It was fifteen feet over her. Moreover the English engineers had hurt the job, and made it much more difficult, by using vast quantities of powder at random among the engines and iron work. They had twisted and tangled up the machinery badly. Above the fifteen feet of accumulated sand was a depth of twenty-six feet of water to work through.

Mr. Cowen devised metal cases, which, we believe, he afterwards patented, to concontain his charges of powder; and which, of course, had to be placed under the frigate's bottom, and through the fifteen feet of sand. These cases were of cast iron, six feet long, fourteen inches diameter, and held a charge of two hundred and fifty pounds of powder. At the conical end was a large thread, like that about a post auger, cast on to the case, and to be used in boring into the sand as with an auger. This lower end was cast in a chill, and was so hard and strong that it stood, in one instance, the test of being bored through a McAdam street, in Baltimore, six feet into the earth. Mr. Cowen took out with him twenty-four of these iron powder cylinders. He used only twelve of them. They made toothpicks of the Missouri's hull. His divers descended in their armor, pointed the cylinders properly—these were turned by shafts worked from above, and when under the vessel's bottom, were fired by an electric battery.

The great quantity of forty-three thousand pounds of powder was consumed in the work. Of this full two-thirds were used in blowing off the iron centers and arms from the safts. She was a side-wheel steamer, and had upon each of the outboard shafts ninety-six iron arms, which weighed three hundred and fifty pounds apiece. To break up this complicated mass of powerful iron work, and get it detached, and reduced so as to be lifted, was really the labor our Yankee ocean engineer had to do. This part of the job it was that the English engineers had fooled with and injured. But Mr. Cowen knocked shafts, arms, centers, braces, and bolts right and left, down there forty-one feet below his hand, and took up and carried away the great steamer, to the uttermost stick and last visible spike. Nothing was left for the sand to form a bar upon, and in five months from the day Mr. Cowen began the work he fully completed and performed his contract.

He raised about one thousand six hundred tons of iron, and some eight hundred tons of oysters that had grown to the iron. It is interesting to know that the oysters that grew next to copper, or upon copper, were poisonous. Three men of Gibraltar died from having eaten them. The iron, of course, was converted into plumbago, by the action of the sea-water. In the heavy pieces this action extended in to the depth of an inch. Many pieces were cut out entirely by the salt, save a few threads of resisting metal, running lengthwise, and looking like the large fibers of cocoanut husks. The iron was mostly worthless.

The management of Mr. Cowen's submarine armor was so perfect that not an accident happened to one of his divers, in all this great work; and without any inconvenience, the men could remain under water for the space of twelve hours.

Can anything better illustrate the Yankee resource, the Yankee energy, the Yankee confidence, than this hastily sketched history of the removal of the wreck of the Missouri? We think not. The gentleman, who, without diplomas, can thus teach lessons in the great art of submarine engineering to the graduates of the Royal Woolwich College, is now in this city, closing up his accounts with the steamer Erie, whose remains by his agency have lately been lifted from the bottom of our lake, and brought into the Buffalo harbor.—[Buffalo Democracy.

A Sunday paper says: "We heard of a dodge to raise the wind the other day, that does credit to the sharpers whose wits got it up. There are three gentlemen engaged in this new enterprise, and we are told that they have collected some thousands of dollars within the past few weeks. Their plan of operation is: Two of them dressed as laborers visit a grocery store, buy a pound of some cheap article, take it off to a corner and weigh it with a standard scales which they carry with them. If it falls short of the full and correct weight, (which it does in 9 cases out of 10,) they kick up a grand breeze with the grocer, threaten prosecution, and finally, through the intervention of a *gentleman* (the other partner,) who steps in just at the nick of time, the trouble is compromised by the payment of an X or a V by the grocer to settle the matter. In one instance, $30 was paid to hush up one of these cases; the article bought was sugar, and the pound only weighed thirteen ounces!"

The Maryland colony in Liberia is now a free and independent State. The new constitution, containing a clause which prohibits the traffic in ardent spirits, was adopted by the people on the 29th of May, and on the 6th of June William A. Pout was elected Governor, and B. J. Drayton Lieutenant Governor. The new Governor was for many years secretary to the late Governor Russwurm, and last winter visited Baltimore to consult with the managers of the Maryland Colonization Society in relation to the separation, which has now been effected. He was inaugurated on the 8th of June, when the agent of the Maryland Society formally relinquished the government into his hands. He is said to possess much ability.

A Tale for the Young.

TWO NOBLE-HEARTED CHILDREN.

It is a beautiful sight when children treat each other with kindness and love, as is related in the following story: Last evening, says the narrator, I took supper with Lydia's father and mother. Before supper, Lydia, her parents, and myself, were sitting in the room together, and her little brother Oliver was out in the yard drawing his cart about. The mother went out and brought in some peaches, a few of which were large red-cheeked rare-ripes—the rest, small ordinary peaches. The father handed me one of the rare-ripes, gave one to the mother, and then one of the best to his little daughter, who was eight years old. He then took one of the smaller ones, and gave it to Lydia, and told her to go and give it to her brother. He was four years old. Lydia went out and was gone about ten minutes, and then came in.

"Did you give your brother the peach I sent him?" asked the father.

Lydia blushed, turned away, and did not answer.

"Did you give your brother the peach I sent him?" asked the father again, a little more sharply.

"No, father," said she, "I did not give him that."

"What did you do with it?" he asked.

"I ate it," said Lydia.

"What! Did you not give your brother any?" asked the father.

"Yes, I did, father," said she, "I gave him mine."

"Why did you not give him the one I told you to give?" asked the father rather sternly.

"Because, father," said Lydia, "I thought he would like mine better."

"But you ought not to disobey your father," said he.

"I did not mean to be disobedient, father," said she, and her bosom began to heave, and chin to quiver.

"But you were, my daughter," said he.

"I thought you would not be displeased with me, father," said Lydia, "if I did give brother the largest peach;" and the tears began to roll down her cheeks.

"But I wanted you to have the largest," said the father; "you are older and larger than he is."

"I want to give the best things to brother," said the noble girl.

"Why?" asked the father, scarcely able to contain himself.

"Because," answered the dear generous sister, "I love him so; I always feel best when he gets the best things."

"You are right, my precious daughter," said the father, as he fondly and proudly embraced her in his arms. "You are right, and you may be certain your happy father can never be displeased with you for desiring to give up the best of everything to your affectionate little brother. He is a dear and noble boy, and I am glad you love him so. Do you think he loves you as well you do him?"

"Yes, father," said the little girl, "I think he does; for when I offered him the largest peach he would not take it, and desired me to keep it; and it was a good while before I could get him to take it."

HOW TO KNOW THE AGE OF A HORSE.—The colt is born with twelve grinders. When four front teeth have made their appearance, the colt is twelve days old, and when the next four come forth it is four weeks old. When the corner teeth appear, the colt is eight months, and when the latter have attained to the height of the front teeth, it is one year old. The two year old colt, has the kernel (the dark substance in the middle of the tooth's crown) ground out of all the front teeth. In the third year the middle front teeth are being shifted; and when three years old these are substituted by the horse teeth. The next four teeth are shifted in the fourth year, and the corner in the fifth. At six years the kernel is worn out of the lower middle front teeth, and the bridle teeth have now attained their full growth. At seven years a hook has been formed on the corner teeth of the upper jaw; the kernel of the teeth next to the middle fronts is worn out, and the bridle teeth begin to wear off. At eight years of age, the kernel is worn out of all the lower front teeth, and begins to decrease in the middle upper fronts. In the ninth year, the kernel has wholly disappeared from the upper middle front teeth, the hook on the corner teeth has increased in size, and the bridle teeth lose their points. In the tenth year the kernel is worn out of the teeth next to the middle fronts of the upper jaw; and in the eleventh year the kernel has entirely vanished from the corner teeth of the same jaw. At twelve years old, the crown of all the front teeth in the lower jaw has become triangular, and the bridle teeth are much worn down. As the horse advances in age the gums shrink away from the teeth, which consequently, receive a long, narrow appearance, and their kernels have become metamorphosed into a darkish point; gray hairs increase in the forehead, and over the eyes, and the chin assumes the form of an angle.

PREPARATION OF SEED WHEAT—THE WEEVIL.—One of our subscribers, who evidently has not read what we have published in former volumes about wheat insects, expresses the opinion that soaking seed wheat in brine, then rolling it in lime, is useful as a means of preventing injury from the fly and the weevil; as he supposes the eggs of those insects are in some way attached to and sown with the seed.

Any person who has read at all on the subject or observed the habits of these and similar insects, must know that there is no danger whatever of the eggs being sown with the wheat.

The brining and limeing of seed wheat has been found beneficial in the prevention of *smut* in wheat; and it may be of service generally in giving an early and healthy start to the young plants; but the only means we can suggest as a prevention of weevil, is to *sow early* on ground well prepared, that is naturally dry, or well drained, and sow the hardiest and earliest variety of wheat you can obtain.

The Mediterranean wheat has generally been found the least liable to injury from weevil as well as the Hessian fly, of any variety that can be easily obtained; and although worth a few cents less per bushel in the market, it is found the most profitable in the long run, on a majority of farms, at least in districts affected by these insects.

MAINE.—The sweep in the down east State has no parallel in the political history of the country. It gave Pierce a very large majority two years ago; now, his friends are no where. Out of a vote of over 70,000, the Pierce Nebraska candidate for governor get only about 20,000. Every member of Congress is opposed to the administration. The Pierce men have not a single member of the senate; and in the county officers, there has been a clean sweep *in every county*,—not an administration man is elected to any office. It is perfectly awful.